

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A roof rack for a vehicle, having at least one rail extending essentially at a distance from the roof surface of the vehicle and at least two supports at the ends of the rail to attach the roof rack to the vehicle roof, wherein the rail is defined by an elongate body having exterior walls extending along the length of the rail and end faces extending across the elongate body; wherein the rail is shaped to have a curve in the end areas defined by the exterior walls; and wherein the ~~area of~~ each curve is held from below by the support such that the support attaches to the exterior wall of the rail independent of the end face, wherein the top surface of the support, when viewed in cross-section, forms a flat supporting surface for a matching surface on the rail, wherein the matching surface of the rail is flat when viewed in cross-section, and wherein the underside of the rail has a recess in the area of the curve to locate the support.

35. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 34, wherein the rail is tubular and has a lumen formed therein, and wherein the roof rack further comprises a projection which extends into the end of the rail so as to extend into the lumen, and wherein the projection has a shape which corresponds to the ~~interior~~ lumen of the rail so as to engage the ~~interior~~ lumen of the rail.

36. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 35, wherein the roof rack further comprises a mounting plate, and wherein the projection extends upwardly from the mounting plate.

37. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 36, wherein the mounting plate attaches to the bottom of the support and wherein the end face of the rail is disposed adjacent the mounting plate.

38. (Currently Amended) A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from the roof of a vehicle, the rail having an elongate body and having exterior walls disposed along the length of the rail and an end face disposed across the elongate body;

a curved portion formed in the end area of the rail and defined by the exterior walls; and

a support attached to the curved portion so as to be attached to the body via the exterior walls and configured for attaching the rail to the roof of a vehicle, the support having an upper surface which is curved so as to be complementary to the lower surface of the curved portion formed in the end area of the rail.

39. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the support is generally flat on the bottom and configured for attachment to the roof of a vehicle.

40. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail has a recess formed in the underside of the exterior wall of the curved portion and wherein the support is disposed in the recess.

41. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the bottom of the curved portion and the top of the support are flat when viewed in horizontal a cross-section taken laterally across the rail.

42. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail is tubular so as to have a hollow interior, and wherein the roof rack comprises a projection which is complementary in shape to the hollow interior of the rail and which is disposed in the ~~end~~ hollow interior of the tubular rail.

43. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 42, further comprising a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, and wherein the projection is disposed on the mounting plate.

44. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the bottom of the curved portion and the top of the support have a curved shape in longitudinal cross-section.

45. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail has a step formed on the underside and wherein the support is disposed adjacent the step such that the step locates the support.

46. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 38, further comprising a mounting plate located between the support and the roof of a vehicle, and wherein the end of the rail is disposed adjacent the mounting plate.

47. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 46, wherein the mounting plate has a projection disposed thereon such that the projection extends into a hollow interior of the end of the rail.

48. (Currently Amended) A roof rack for a vehicle comprising:

a rail extending at a distance from a vehicle, wherein the rail comprises an elongate body defined by exterior walls extending along the length thereof and an end face extending across the length thereof, and wherein an end of the rail has a curved portion formed therein such that the end section of the rail curves towards the surface of a vehicle;

a support attached to the underside of the exterior walls of the curved portion of the rail, the support having a curved upper surface which is complementary to the lower surface of the curved portion and having a lower surface configured for attachment to a vehicle.

49. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 48, wherein the rail has a recess formed in the underside of the curved portion, and wherein the support is located in the recess.

50. (Previously Presented) The roof rack of claim 48, wherein the rail has a step formed in the underside of the curved portion, and wherein the support is disposed against the step.

51. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 48, further comprising a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, and wherein the mounting plate has a projection configured for engaging a recess in the end face of the rail.

52. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 48, wherein the rail ~~is~~ has a tubular body defining a lumen, and wherein the roof rack has a mounting plate attached to the bottom of the support, the mounting plate having a projection extending upwardly therefrom having a shape which corresponds to the ~~interior of the rail lumen and which extends into the lumen~~.

53. (Currently Amended) The roof rack of claim 48, wherein the bottom of the curved portion and the top of the recess are curved in longitudinal cross-section and flat in ~~horizontal~~ lateral cross section.

54. (New) The roof rack of claim 38, wherein the rail is formed by a single piece comprising a generally straight portion and a curved end portion.